



# Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

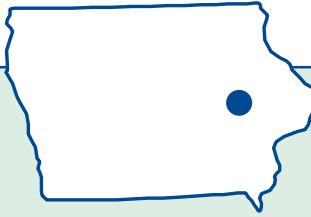
## Marion, IA

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Marion was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Marion (population 26,294), a small east-central Iowa community, was home to a bustling railroad industry that brought with it jobs and economic prosperity. The Central Corridor of Marion became a focus for industry. By the late 1990s, industry moved closer to the highway corridors, and the railroad was no more than a spur. The decline in the railroad industry has left behind a legacy of contamination that threatens the city's water supply and adversely affects the value of surrounding neighborhoods. There are 281 potential brownfields within the target area and more than 60 underground storage tanks within one mile of the Corridor. About 40 percent of the city's residents live in the target area. The poverty rate in the area is 17.4 percent, nearly



### Cleanup Grant



#### \$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Marion for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up about 20 acres of the former Chicago Central and Pacific Railroad site along 6th Avenue, between 22nd and 35th Streets. Since 1886, the property has been used for a railroad roundhouse maintenance facility, coal storage facility, livestock yard, and switch yard. Site contaminants include heavy metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons. Grant funds also will be used to support community involvement activities.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 7 Brownfields Team  
800-223-0425

<http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/brownfields/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: City of Marion, IA  
319-743-6320

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

four times the city rate. The city plans to replace the rail line at the cleanup site with a trail and landscaped erosion-control buffer to prevent runoff to adjacent streams and rivers. The trail and buffer zone will provide a transition zone between the residential and commercial areas.